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For Immediate Release

Utah Guard's 1457th Engineer Battalion Conducts Change of Command

DRAPER, Utah — The Utah National Guard's 1457th Engineer Battalion will conduct a change-of-command ceremony Sunday, Feb. 8, at 12 noon at American Fork Armory.

At the ceremony, Lt. Col. William French will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Joseph Grimmiett.

French, a resident of Sandy, has commanded the Battalion since 2007. He is a full-time employee of the Utah National Guard and currently serves as chief of training branch.

During French's tenure as commander, the many accomplishments of the 1457th include the transition of the Battalion to its current configuration, which now boasts the capability of supporting a multifunctional brigade in road and building construction, mobility (obstacle breaching) and countermobility (obstacle placement).

A South Jordan resident, Grimmiett is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving with the 115th Engineer Battalion in 2005-2006 in Kuwait and Iraq. He currently works full time for the Utah National Guard as supervisor of base operations at Camp Williams.

During his 22-year military career, Grimmiett has served as a commander, executive officer, operations officer, personnel officer and platoon leader.

Grimmiett will assume command of approximately 300 Soldiers assigned to units in American Fork, Blanding, Mount Pleasant, Price, Riverton, Spanish Fork, Springville and Vernal.

Media Notes: American Fork Armory is located at 251 S. 200 E. in American Fork. On the day of the ceremony please contact Maj. Jeffrey Mercer at (801) 763-6301 for more information.